

as the academic community for each of the six appointees and shall select members from among those recommendations. Members shall have the following qualifications:

- (1) One member with expertise and training in water quality;
- (2) One member with expertise and training in coastal or marine fisheries;
- (3) One member with expertise and training in resource economics;
- (4) One member with expertise and training in physical modeling;
- (5) One member with expertise and training in wetlands; and
- (6) One member with expertise and training in the social sciences.

The members shall be appointed for staggered two-year terms and may be reappointed for subsequent terms. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary."

SECTION 30. G.S. 143B-279.7(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall coordinate an intradepartmental effort to develop scientific protocols to respond to significant fish kill events utilizing staff from the Division of ~~Environmental Management~~, Water Quality, Division of Marine Fisheries, Department of Health and Human Services, Wildlife Resources Commission, the scientific community, and other agencies, as necessary. In developing these protocols, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall address the unpredictable nature of fish kills caused by both natural and man-made factors. The protocols shall contain written procedures to respond to significant fish kill events including:

- (1) Developing a plan of action to evaluate the impact of fish kills on public health and the environment.
- (2) Responding to fish kills within 24 hours.
- (3) Investigating and collecting data relating to fish kill events.
- (4) Summarizing and distributing fish kill information to participating agencies, scientists and other interested parties."

SECTION 31. G.S. 143B-279.7(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) The Secretary of ~~the Department of~~ Environment and Natural Resources shall take all necessary and appropriate steps to effectively carry out the purposes of this Part including:

- (1) Providing adequate training for fish kill investigators.
- (2) Taking immediate action to protect public health and the environment.